

10. The surgical instrument of claim 9, wherein said manually-actuated reversing system comprises:

a reversing gear in meshing engagement with said second rotary driven gear; and

a ratchet gear supported for selective meshing engagement with said reversing gear such that manual actuation of said ratchet gear applies the manually-generated, rotary control motions to said reversing gear. 5

11. The surgical instrument of claim 10, wherein said ratchet gear is mounted for selective pivotal travel relative to said reversing gear between an actuated and an unactuated position such that as said reversing gear is pivoted from the unactuated position to the actuated position, said reversing gear axially biases said second rotary driven gear out of meshing engagement with said first rotary driven gear. 10 15

* * * * *